

May 2016

The INFORMANT

The Kansas City Missouri Police Department

Police mourn slain KCK detective

The murder of a Kansas City Kansas Police Officer on May 9 threw the entire metro area into mourning.

Kansas City Missouri Police officers immediately stepped in to help any way possible, starting with capturing the suspect.

According to a statement from KCK Police, a call came in of a suspicious person near the Hollywood Casino at 12:17 p.m. May 9. Officers went to the area, and when they tried to contact the suspect, he fled from them. KCKPD Detective Brad Lancaster was in the area, so he went to assist the responding officers. The suspect opened fire, striking Detective Lancaster and his vehicle many times. The suspect then stole Detective Lancaster's unmarked car and fled. Detective Lancaster – a husband and father of two young girls – was transported to a hospital, where he later died.

After the shooting, the suspect drove to Basehor, Kan., where he ditched Detective Lancaster's car, according to the Associated Press. Once there, he hijacked a vehicle with two children inside. He abandoned that car, leaving the children unharmed, and carjacked another one. He drove into Kansas City, Mo., where he crashed that vehicle and attempted to carjack another one at Bannister Road and 71 Highway. As KCPD officers pulled up, the suspect shot the woman driving that car, so a KCPD officer shot the suspect. Other KCPD officers got the suspect into custody. He was transported to a hospital, where he is recovering under constant guard by KCPD officers. The KCPD officers even retrieved KCK Detective Lancaster's handcuffs, which will be used to escort the suspect out of the hospital when he is released. The woman who was shot during the carjacking was hospitalized for a few days and will recover. Prosecutors charged the suspect with capital murder in Kansas.



This all took place a little more than a week before KCPD's annual Memorial Service on May 19. The tone of the Service was even more somber than usual.

"We have been fortunate in the Kansas City area not to have lost an officer in the line of duty for some time," Chief Darryl Forté said at the Service. "But that changed last week, and even though it wasn't a member of our department, we all felt it. We all are affected by it. And not just because of the brotherhood of public safety, although that certainly is part of it. We are affected because we know it could have been us. When we lose an officer who was in the course of doing his or her job, every other officer thinks about the dangerous situations in which they have been involved – how quickly it could have turned deadly, or how if one thing had gone differently, they wouldn't be going home to their families at the end of their shifts. It takes immense courage and sacrifice to come into work every day knowing that could happen."

In the days after Detective Lancaster's death, KCPD officers wore black mourning bands on their badges. Hundreds attended his funeral. Members of the Tactical Enforcement Team donned all their gear for a memorial run that traced the exact path Detective Lancaster did on the day he was killed. The run ended with a moment of silence at the exact same time as the shooting.



Tactical teams from many departments, including KCPD, ran to memorialize Det. Lancaster, ending with a moment of silence.

Anyone who would like to make a donation to the Brad Lancaster Memorial Fund to assist the fallen detective's family can do so at any branch of the Greater Kansas City Public Safety Credit Union. Checks should be made payable to "Brad Lancaster Memorial Fund."

Pg. 2 The Forgotten Hero

Pg. 3 Aerial Search and Rescue
EOC 156 Graduates

Pg. 4 Officially Speaking
Upcoming Events

Forgotten KCPD hero receives recognition

Not until after digging through old newspaper articles did Major Steve Young find out the real story behind his great-grandfather, James Charles Gallagher, a Kansas City Missouri Police Detective who somehow died from an injury suffered in the line of duty.

Several years ago Major Young noticed that his great-grandfather's name was not on the KCPD memorial statue in front of Headquarters, and after looking further into it, he wasn't on any state or national memorial either. He was determined to find out his story.

Major Young said his grandmother, Elizabeth Dobbs, born in 1903, was only four years old when her father, James Gallagher died. All she knew was he was a police officer for the Kansas City Police Department and that he was shot during a burglary and died years later from complications of that gunshot.

"We always knew of him," Major Young said. "But we never knew the real story until we found the newspaper articles and decided we should try and get him on a memorial."

After reading up on his great-grandfather, Major Young did indeed find out that James Gallagher started with the Kansas City Missouri Police Department as a probationary officer in May of 1895. He was made a regular officer in November of that same year. He resigned from the force two years later in January 1897. He was then approved as a Jackson County Deputy Marshal (something that no longer exists). It was while serving as a Deputy Marshal he was shot.

The following is paraphrased from a July 13, 1987, article in the Kansas City Journal newspaper:

On July 12, 1897, Deputy Marshals Gallagher and Taylor were out trying to serve warrants to two hack drivers, Charley Culver and Tom Green. They had gotten into an altercation with some farmers at Phoenix Park which resulted in a stabbing. Fearing arrest, Culver and Green went into seclusion. The deputy marshals learned that they were in the habit of frequenting rooms over a saloon at Twelfth and Vine Streets. They went there in search of them. Near the saloon, they met Officer O'Donnell, who accompanied them into the second story of the building. Culver and Green were not



there. After coming out of the building, Officer O'Donnell noticed two tough-looking men (who turned out not to be Culver and Green). He and Deputy Marshal Gallagher crossed the street for the purpose of questioning and searching these men. Officer O'Donnell seized one of them by the arm and, as he did so, the other retreated a few steps and opened fire upon Deputy Marshal Gallagher, firing two shots. One of which struck him in the neck. The man who did the shooting then ran away. In the meantime, Gallagher had

taken his revolver from his hip pocket and fired three or four shots at his assailant, but did not hit him.

Deputy Marshal Taylor ran across the street, but he was too late to catch the fleeing thug. Officer O'Donnell kept a tight grip upon his man and took him to police headquarters, where he was locked up.

Deputy Marshal Gallagher was taken to police headquarters, where he was attended by Police Surgeon Hyde, who did not remove the bullet. It was a 38-caliber, and is lodged at the base of the neck. Gallagher was taken home in an ambulance.

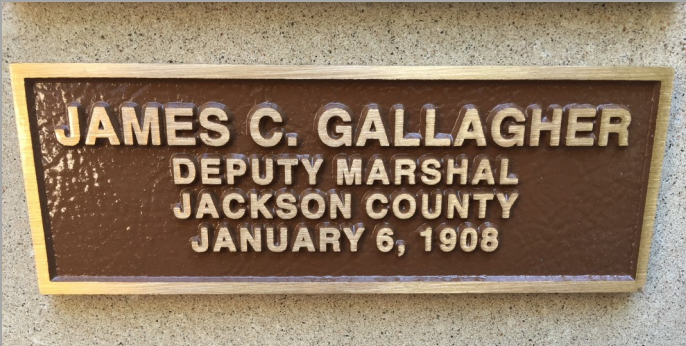
Newspaper articles revealed James Gallagher then returned to the Kansas City Missouri Police Department in 1901. While working at the Union Depot in the flood of 1903, Officer Gallagher contracted a severe cold, which permanently affected his injured lung. Articles differed about whether he was shot in the neck or chest. In April 1906, Gallagher was promoted to detective.

Gallagher died at age 43 on Jan. 6, 1908, from long-term complications of that bullet wound. A Kansas City Post article said, "Well-known detective succumbs to the ravages of consumption."

James Charles Gallagher was the brother of KCPD Police Commissioner Andrew E. Gallagher.

Major Young was able to get his great-grandfather the recognition he has long deserved. In May 2016, Major Young was able to show the Missouri Police Chief's Association the several newspaper articles about Gallagher, and he is now being me-

morialized at the state law enforcement memorial in Jefferson City. Gallagher also is the great-grandfather of Major Young's brother, KCPD Captain Chris Young.



Search and rescue efforts take to the skies

Kansas City Police are gaining some eyes in the sky to help locate individuals who wander off because of medical conditions.

A partnership with the Civil Air Patrol as well as drones will help find missing people faster than ever.

The Civil Air Patrol is the civilian auxiliary of the U.S. Air Force, and its members assist states and communities nationwide. Those of the Charles R. Long Squadron in the Kansas City area have agreed to help KCPD find missing persons who wander off or “elope” because of conditions like autism and dementia.

They’ll work with the Care Trak system, which uses radio transmitters on bracelets to find elopers. Police have helped provide tracking bracelets to families whose children elope frequently, and multiple on-call officers have a Care Trak tracking device. Until now, those searches have been conducted on foot.

Then Captain Natalina Ehlers of KCPD, who also is a member of the Civil Air Patrol, had an idea.

“I’d been working with Captain (Brad) Deichler on Care Trak, and I thought we’d really expand our capabilities with the Civil Air Patrol,” Captain Ehlers said. “They already have trained air and ground search teams.”

Civil Air Patrol (CAP) conducts 85 percent of aviation rescue missions in the United States, CAP Major Austin Worcester said. All members are volunteers (Worcester works as a paramedic for the Kansas City Fire Department on his day job), but equipment and funding are provided by the Air Force. The Charles Long Squadron operates out of the Downtown Charles Wheeler Airport, and they can get a search team into the air in 90 to 120 minutes from first call-out. Captain Deichler said police often search for elopers for upwards of five to seven hours.



Above: Major Austin Worcester, Civil Air Patrol, helped KCPD determine Care Trak devices could be tracked from planes. Below: Capt. Greg Williams flew a drone while Sgt. Pat Rauzi watched the video feed in a training exercise.



On the ground, the Care Trak tracking device has a radius of half a mile or so. Officers with KCPD and CAP tested it May 20 and found that from the air, the tracking radius is closer to 10 miles. The tracking unit in the plane indicates coordinates on the ground, which is where the drones come in.

The Police Foundation of Kansas recently purchased two drones for KCPD to assist with search and rescue operations. The drones are equipped with infrared cameras, which can detect heat and allow officers to see people in the dark. Officers can direct the drones to coordinates indicated by CAP, and then get in closer for a more thorough search. Officers flying the drones use iPads to see the feed from the drones’ cameras. Those officers then can direct officers on foot to the missing person, saving hours that might have been spent combing through wooded areas or fields. In a situation of intense cold or heat or in which drowning is a risk, that time could save a life, KCPD Captain Deichler said.

The department helicopter does assist in search and rescue operations, but it’s also needed for law enforcement purposes and is therefore not always available when

other crimes are occurring. It also can’t get too close to the ground.

“Drones can get closer than the helicopter and search the nooks and crannies on the ground the chopper just can’t get to,” Captain Deichler said.

An average of 6 to 10 people with conditions like autism or dementia elope every month in Kansas City, Mo., and require a police search. The ability to find them from the air should significantly reduce the amount of police resources and time spent on searches.

“This is a game-changer, a new chapter in search and rescue,” Captain Deichler said.

Entrant Officer Class 156 Graduates

Enant Officer Class 156 graduated May 18, with 12 officers being sworn into the Kansas City Missouri Police Department, and six sworn into outside agencies. Valedictorian of the class and the Richard Fletcher Director’s Award went to KCPD Officer Chase Kuehl.



Upcoming Events

June 1
25-Year Ring Ceremony

June 14
**Board of Police
Commissioners Meeting**

July 12
**Board of Police
Commissioners Meeting**

The Informant is a
publication of KCPD's
Media Unit
(816) 234-5170
www.kcpd.org

Officially Speaking

Awards

Life-Saving Award
Officer Julie Carpenter
Officer Whitney Thomas

Meritorious Service Award
Captain Charles Huth
Sergeant Kelly Eckert
Detective Keith Huntington
Officer William VonWolf
Administrative Assistant Angela McCune

Certificate of Commendation
Officer Scott Chambers
Officer Troy Thomas

25-Year Rings

Officer Mitchell Atwood
Administrative Assistant Theresa Brooks
Communications Specialist Carrie Brown
Communications Specialist Danny Crockett
Sergeant Kristina Goodin
Sergeant Sean Hess
Officer John Kessler
Administrative Assistant Ilana Mitchell
Detective Kimberlee Rice
Detective Mark Rice
Captain James Thomas
Officer Arthur Wallace
Detective Alan Whaley

Retirements

Captain Randall Jacobs
Captain Robert McLees
Sergeant Brian Baar
Sergeant Brandon Pegg
Officer Adam Baker
Officer Paul Russo
Officer Aaron Shillcutt
Officer Daniell Taylor
Administrative Assistant Beverly Hill
Administrative Assistant Karen Smith
Communications Specialist William Taylor

Obituaries

Retired Sergeant David Staffer
Retired Sergeant Jerry Stull
Retired Officer William Garrett
Retired Officer Donald Seager

The mission of the
Kansas City Missouri
Police Department
is to protect and serve
with professionalism,
honor and integrity.